



No. 288 Rs

Bikal the Terrible and The Tiger-Tamers



— TALES FROM
MADHYA PRADESH

Art by Kadam

BIKAL THE TERRIBLE

There are many who love to tell a story and many more who love to listen to one. And each time a story is retold, it acquires a new colour and a fresh dimension.

The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother, tells the same story to her grandchild but with a few embellishments of her own. The traveller from a distant land who happens to hear a story in the course of his travels, later tells it to his own people, modifying it to make it more dramatic or more acceptable to his audience. That is how stories which had first been told centuries ago have been kept alive and why we find recurring themes in the tales told in different regions separated by hundreds of miles.

The stories in this Amar Chitra Katha are adapted from two popular tribal tales of Madhya Pradesh.

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BIKAL, THE TERRIBLE



A TIGER OFTEN WANDERED INTO A VILLAGE NEAR THE FOREST WHERE HE LIVED.

ONE NIGHT AS HE WAS PROWLING OUTSIDE A MERCHANT'S HOUSE —

I AM GOING OUT, FATHER.

AT THIS HOUR?

AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF BIKAL*?

WITH BIKAL AROUND, EVEN THE BRAVEST OF MEN THINK TWICE BEFORE VENTURING OUT IN THE NIGHT.

WHO IS THIS BIKAL?

... HE BEGAN TO IMAGINE ALL SORTS OF THINGS ...

AS THE TIGER WALKED AWAY...

* A WORD USED BY THE TRIBALS FOR THAT WHICH IS TO BE FEARED, IN THIS CASE THE PROWLING TIGER.

...AND WAS FRIGHTENED.

I'D BETTER HIDE
SOMEWHERE
FOR THE NIGHT
...BUT WHERE?



AH,
THAT
SHED!



LATER THAT NIGHT, THIEVES BROKE
INTO THE HOUSE OF THE MERCHANT...

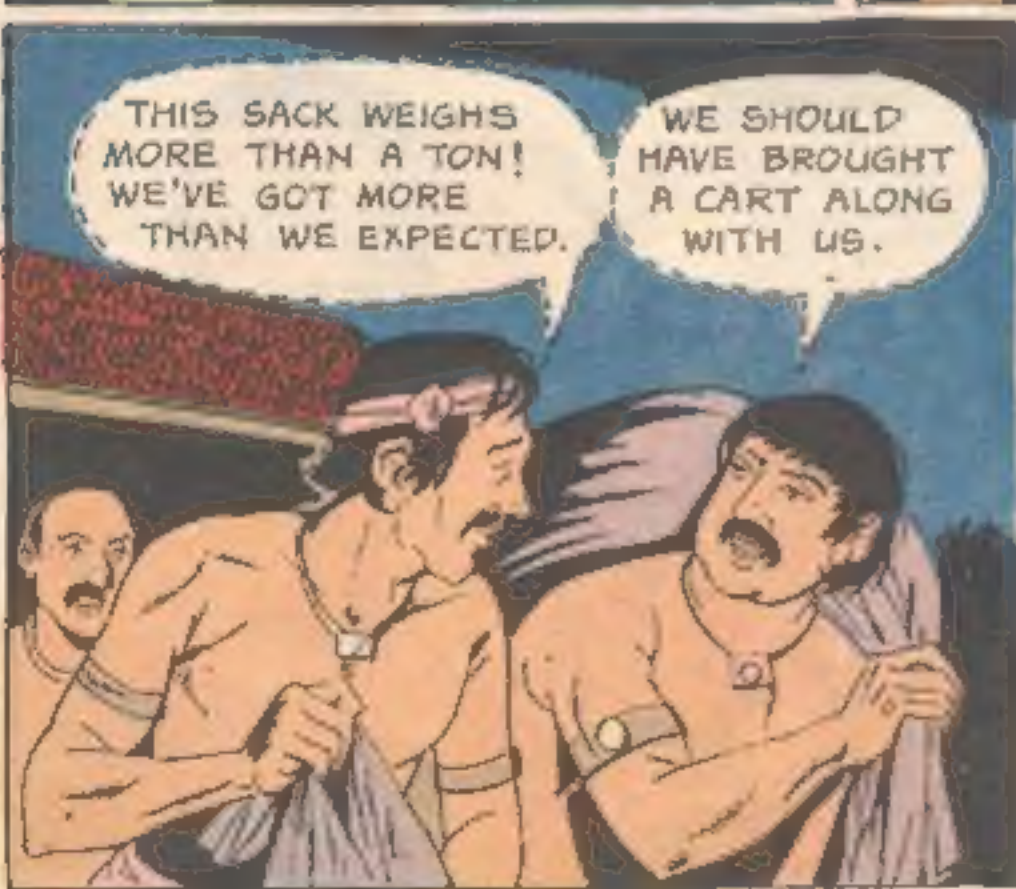


...AND CAME AWAY WITH TWO SACKS OF LOOT.



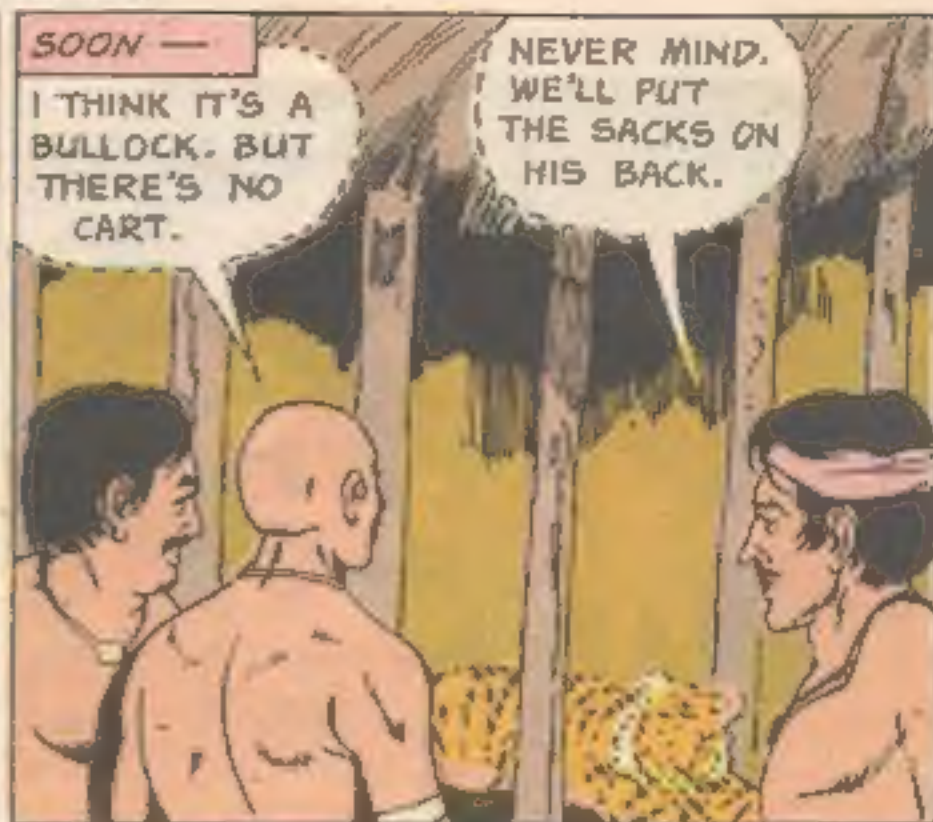
THIS SACK WEIGHS
MORE THAN A TON!
WE'VE GOT MORE
THAN WE EXPECTED.

WE SHOULD
HAVE BROUGHT
A CART ALONG
WITH US.



WE MIGHT
FIND ONE IN
THAT SHED.





AS THE LOOT WAS LOADED ON HIS BACK—



NO ORDINARY
MAN WOULD DARE
TREAT ME SO. MY
WORST FEARS
HAVE COME
TRUE!



I AM IN THE
CLUTCHES OF THE
TERRIBLE BIKAL
AND HIS FRIENDS!



OOOOH!
THE LOAD IS
HEAVY. BUT
I DARE NOT
PROTEST.



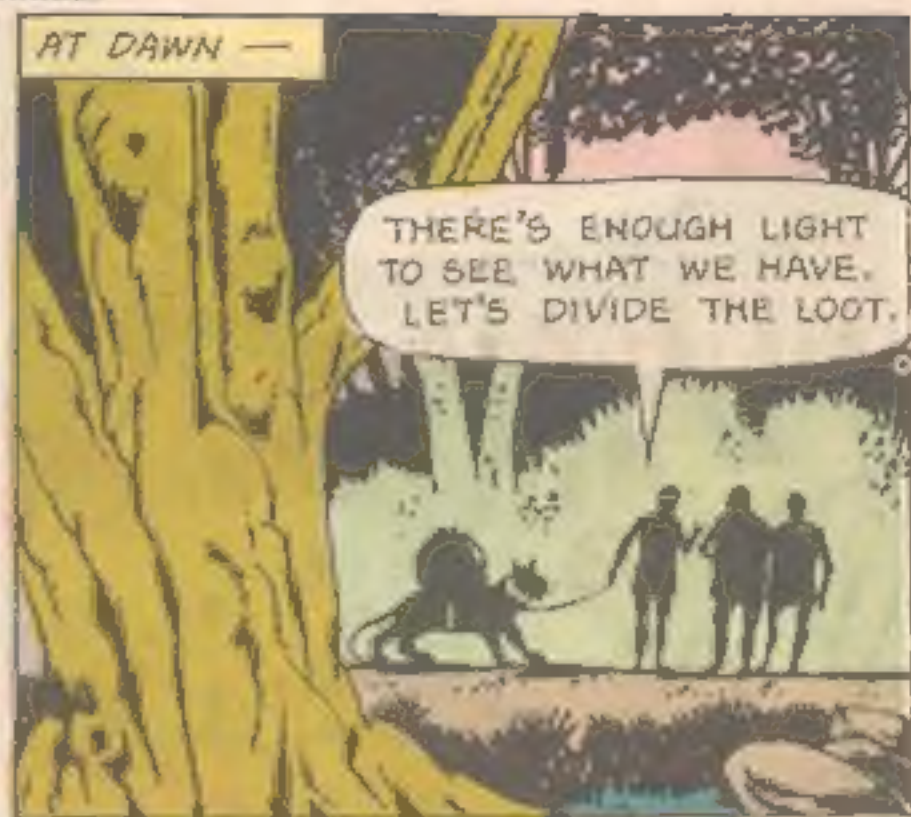
WE ARE RICH MEN
NOW. I'LL BUY AS
MANY GOATS AS
I CAN WITH MY
SHARE.

I'LL BUY
SOME LAND.



AS FOR
ME, I WILL
GET
MARRIED.





OH, WHAT A FOOL I HAVE
MADE OF MYSELF! THEY
WERE JUST MEN—
ORDINARY MEN!



EVERYONE WILL
LAUGH AT ME
IF THEY COME
TO HEAR OF
THIS.



AS HE WAS WANDERING AROUND, FEELING
RATHER ASHAMED OF HIMSELF, THE
BUNDLE ON HIS BACK GOT CAUGHT
BETWEEN TWO ROCKS.



OOOF! NOW
HOW DO I GET
OUT?

JUST THEN HE SPOTTED A COWHERD.



O COWHERD...



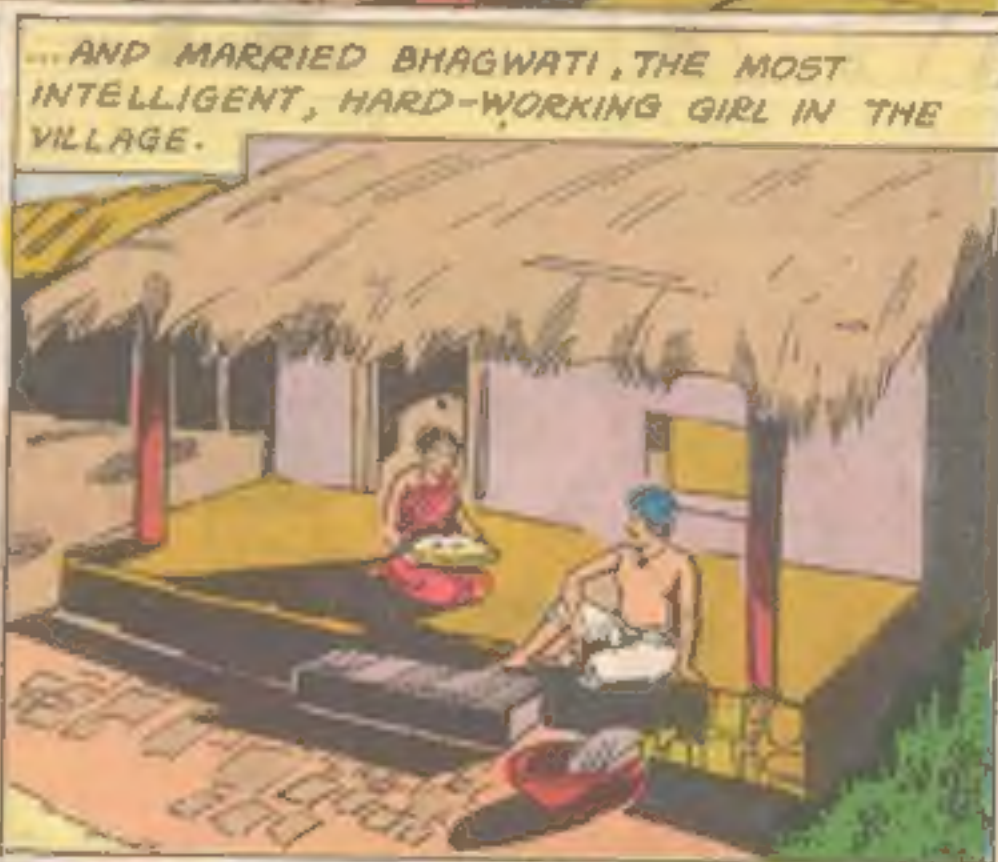
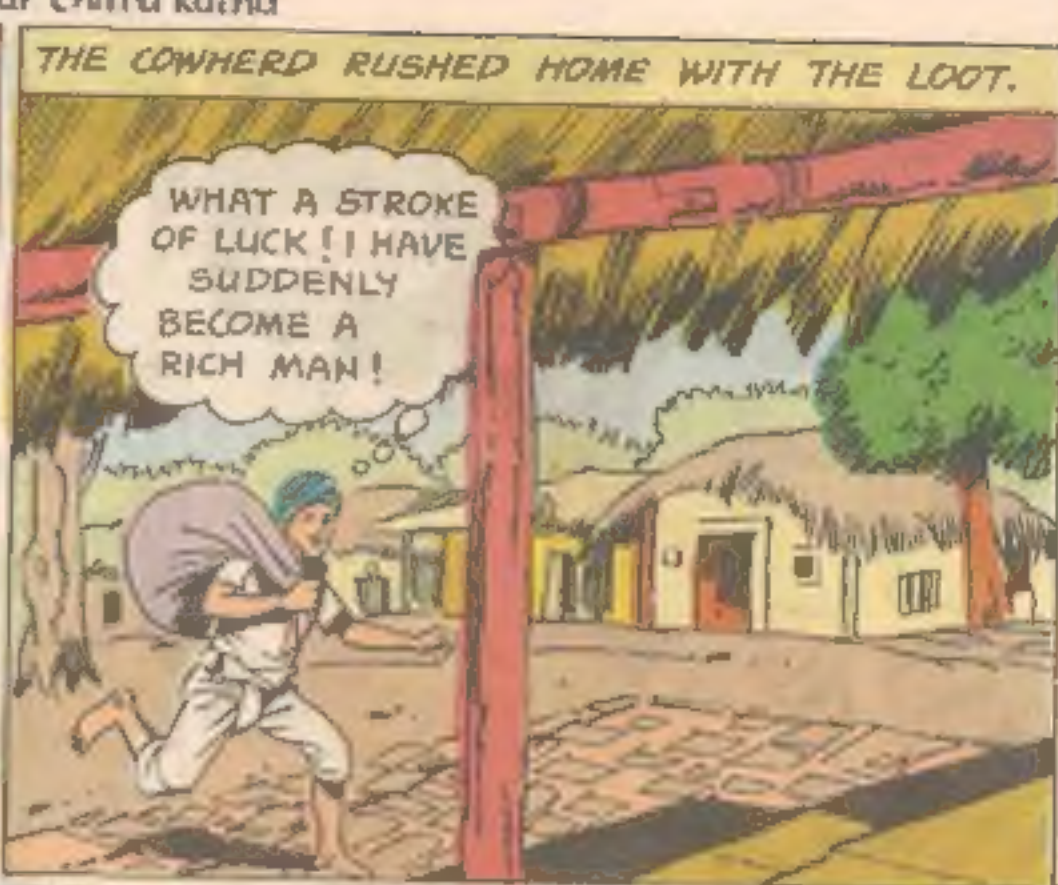
DON'T
RUN AWAY.
I WON'T
EAT YOU.

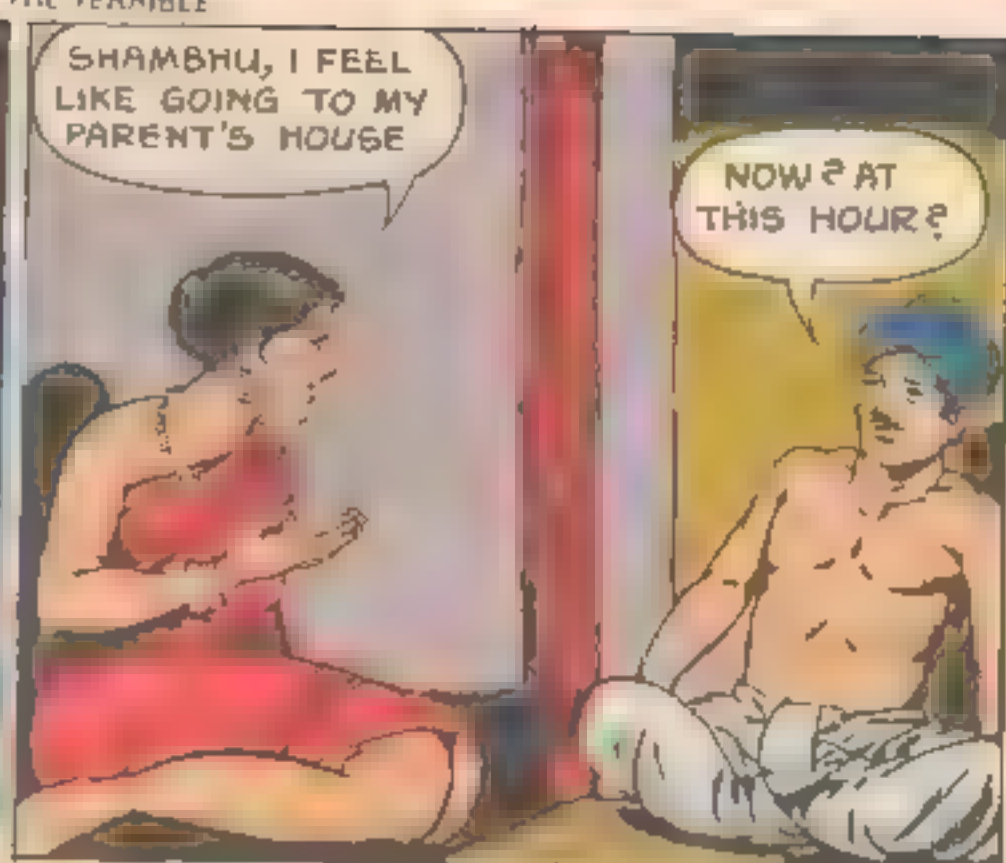
IT'S BIKAL!



PLEASE COME
BACK. SOMEBODY
HAS TIED THIS
SACK ON MY BACK.
PLEASE TAKE IT
DOWN. I SWEAR
I WON'T HARM
YOU.







STEALTHILY LIFTED THE SLEEPING SHAMBHU ...



AND LEFT WITHOUT DISTURBING BHAGWATI.



HE CARRIED THE LOWHERD TO THE FOREST. THERE, HE THREW HIM DOWN WITH A THUD

OW!! WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED?



OH! IT'S YOU

YES, YOU BROKE YOUR PROMISE SO I AM GOING TO EAT YOU



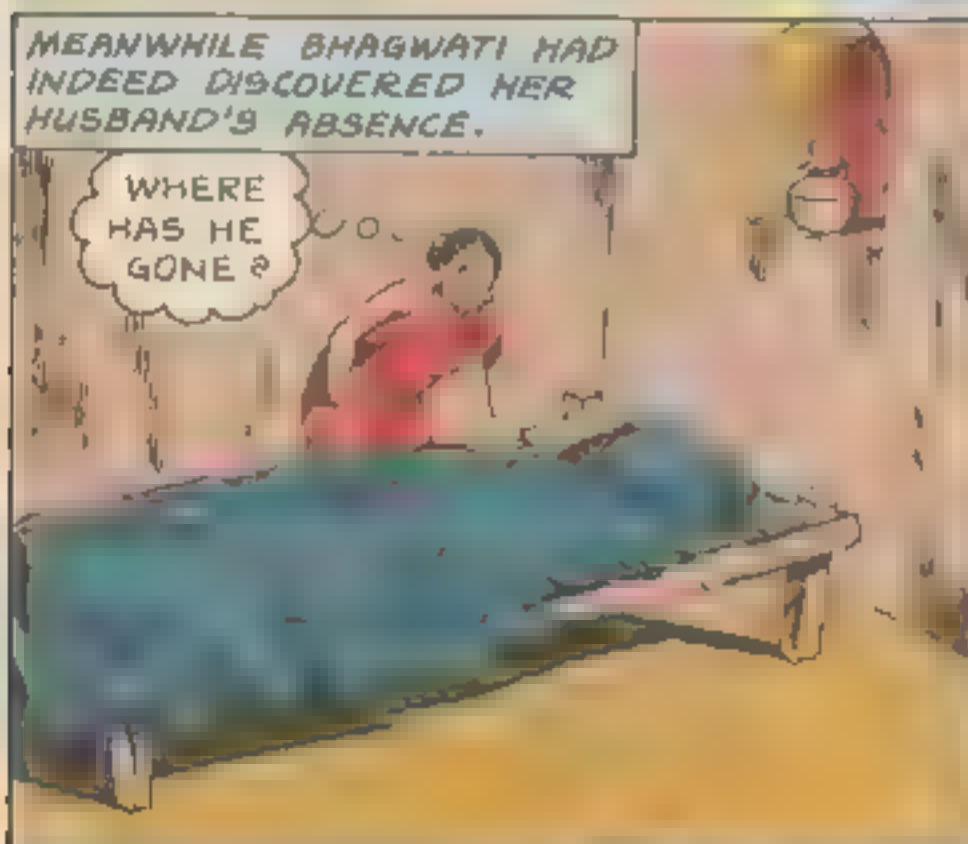
WAIT! EAT ME BY ALL MEANS BUT IN THE MORNING.

WHY NOT NOW?

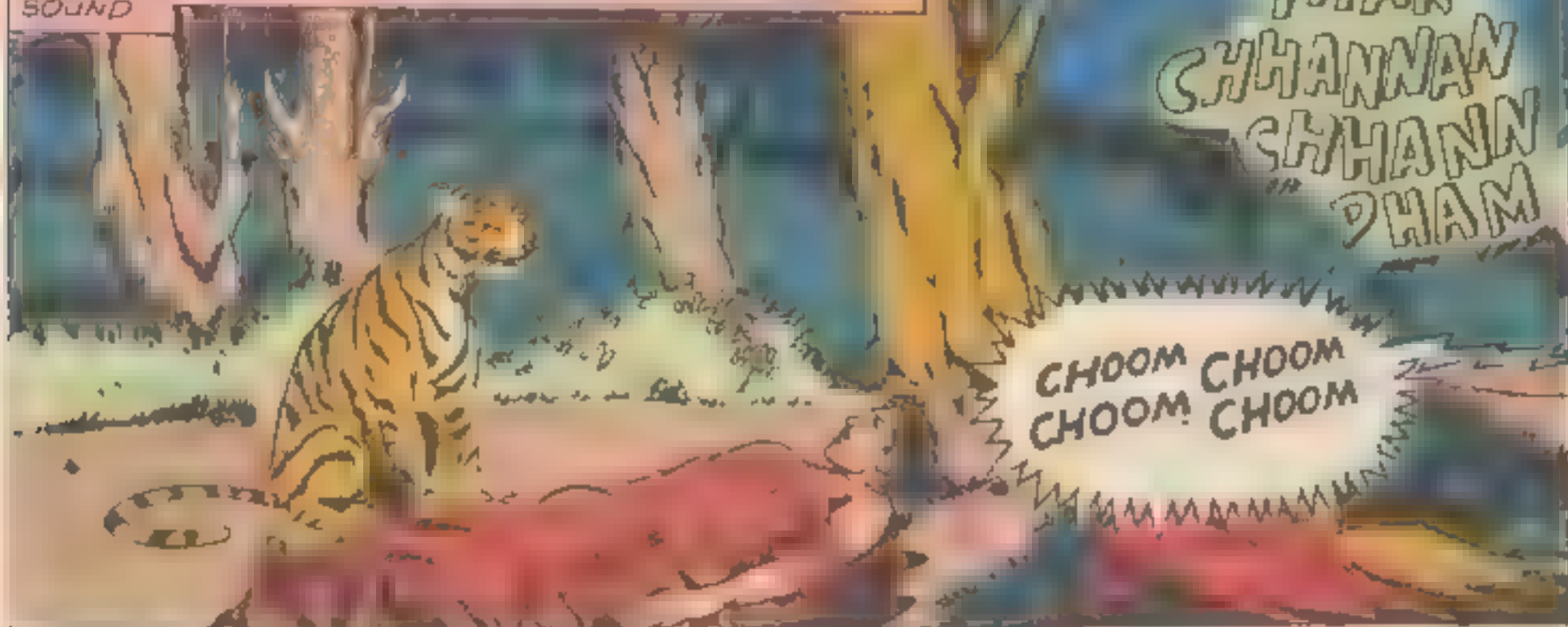


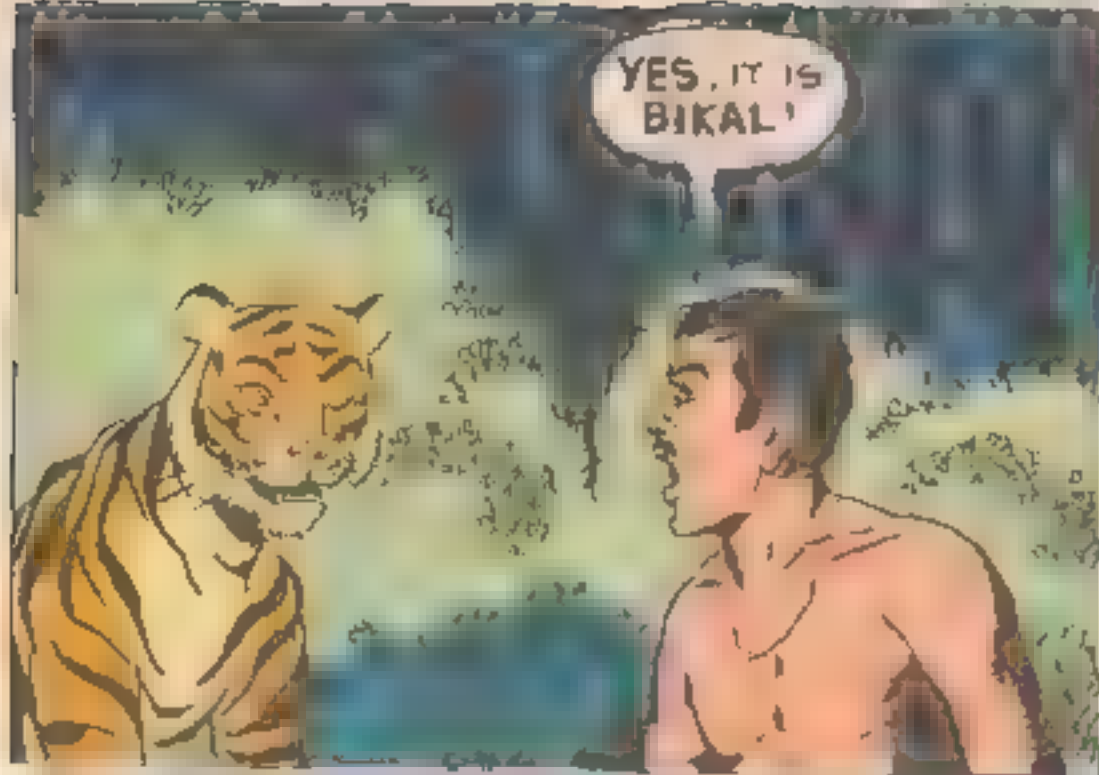
MY FLESH IS TOUGH NOW BECAUSE OF THE COLD, BUT IT WILL BECOME TENDER AND WARM WITH THE MORNING SUN





SOMETIME LATER, THE TIGER WHO WAS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR THE SUN TO RISE, HEARD A WEIRD SOUND

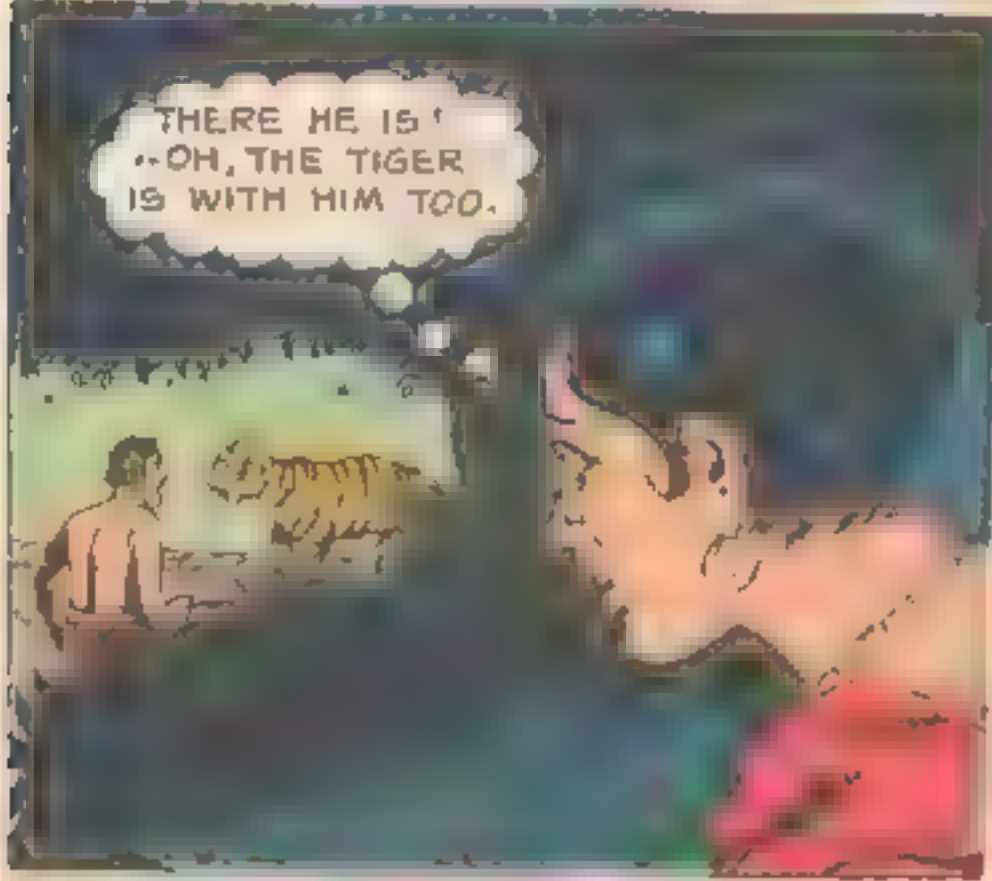




YES, IT IS
BIKAL!



THAT WAS MY
HUSBAND'S VOICE!
HE'S ALIVE!



THERE HE IS!
OH, THE TIGER
IS WITH HIM TOO.



THE TIGER
THINKS I AM
BIKAL! AND HE'S
TERRIFIED!
GOOD! I'LL PLAY
UPON THAT!



WHO'S THERE?
ARE THERE ANY
TIGERS AROUND
FOR ME TO EAT?



HE'S LOOKING FOR
TIGERS TO EAT! WHAT
SHOULD I DO?

HOW
SHOULD
I KNOW?

AHA! I CAN
SMELL A TIGER!



PLEASE HELP ME
IF YOU DO, I WON'T
EAT YOU.

WELL, I'LL TRY.
JUST LIE DOWN
AND KEEP
STILL.



SPEAK UP! HAVE
YOU SEEN ANY
TIGERS WHICH
I CAN EAT?

NO THERE
AREN'T ANY
HERE. GO
AWAY!



THEN WHAT'S
THAT NEXT
TO YOU?

THIS? OH—
IT'S JUST A
PILE OF DIRTY
CLOTHES.



REALLY? I DON'T
BELIEVE YOU! HIT
THE PILE WITH
A ROCK.



AS SHAMBHU HESITATED —

FRIEND, DO HIT
ME... YOU MUST
DO WHAT BIKAL
SAYS IN ORDER
TO SAVE ME.



BUT
HIT ME
GENTLY



THE COWHERD HIT THE TIGER GENTLY ON
THE HEAD. THEN —

HIT IT HARDER
IF IT IS MERELY
A PILE OF
CLOTHES



YES, HIT A
LITTLE HARDER
OTHERWISE

THIS WENT ON FOR A WHILE.

HARDER!
HARDER!

YES, A
LITTLE
HARDER



AFTER A WHILE —

HARDER...

NO NEED.
DEAR OUR
FRIEND
HAS
SWOONED



LEAVING THE WOUNDED TIGER TO ITS
FATE THE CLEVER COUPLE HAPPILY
RETURNED HOME



THE TIGER-TAMERS



TWO MISCHIEVOUS BOYS ONCE
LIVED IN A VILLAGE

THEY DIDN'T DO A SPOT OF WORK BUT ALL THE
TIME HARASSED THOSE WHO DID.



TAKE A M.



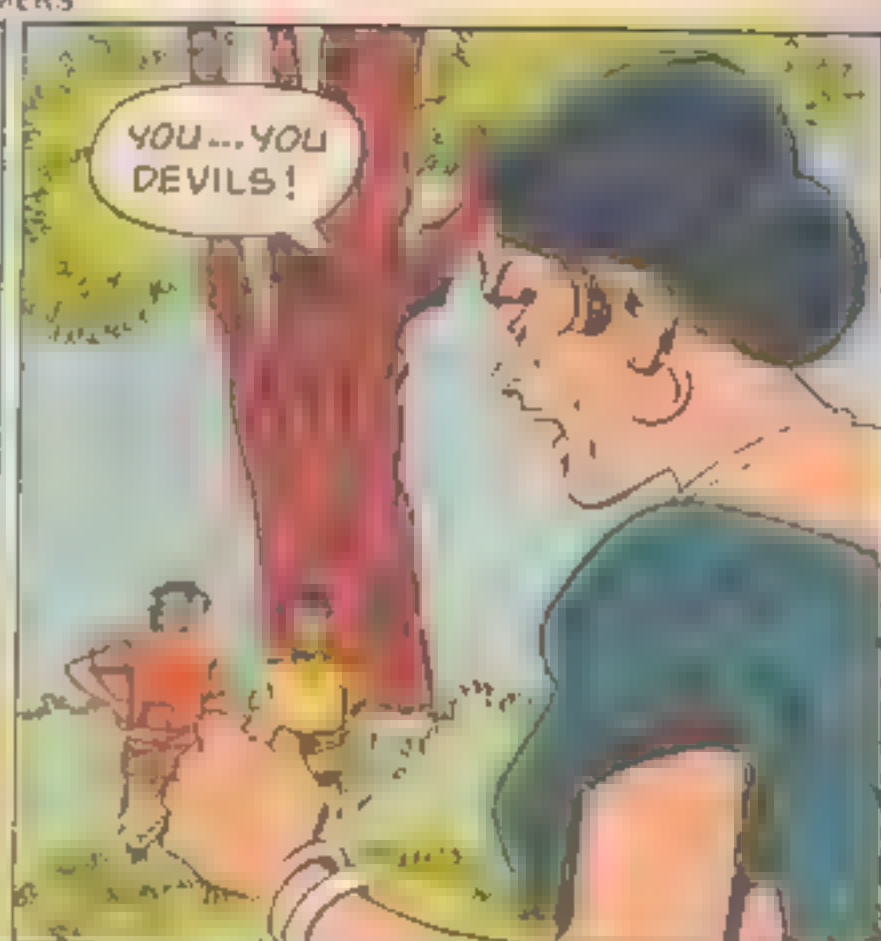
SHOOT!

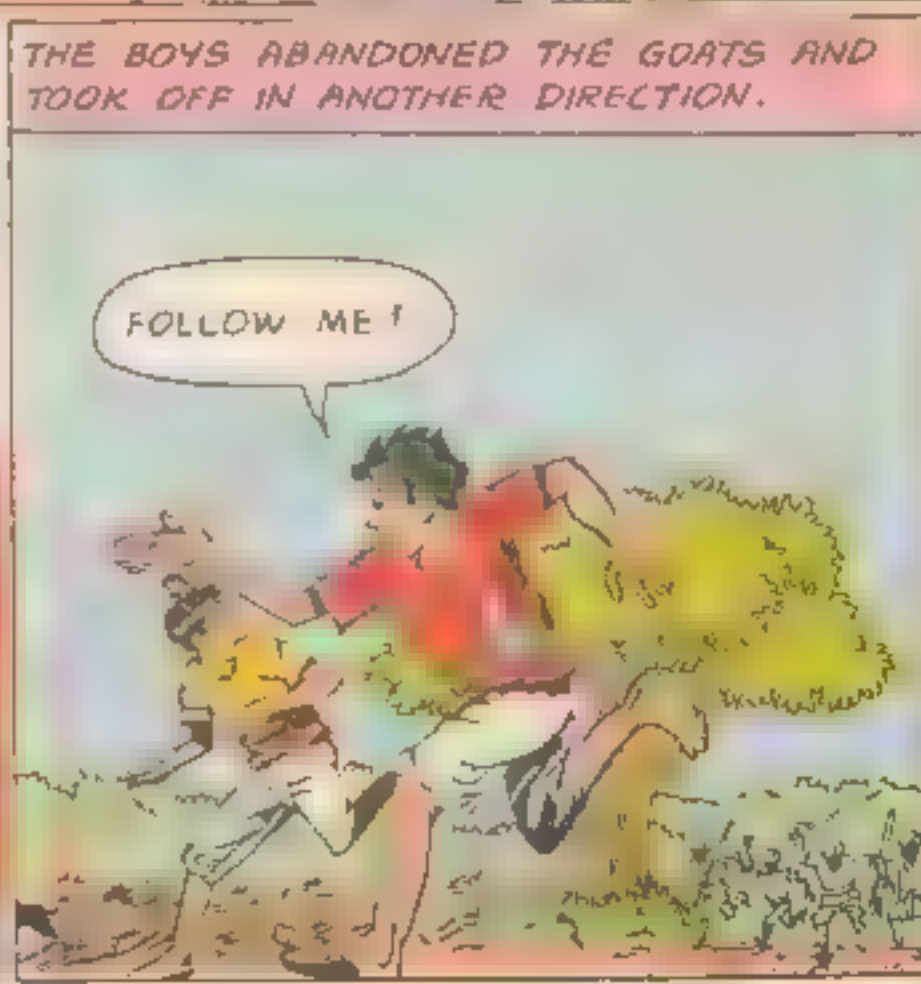
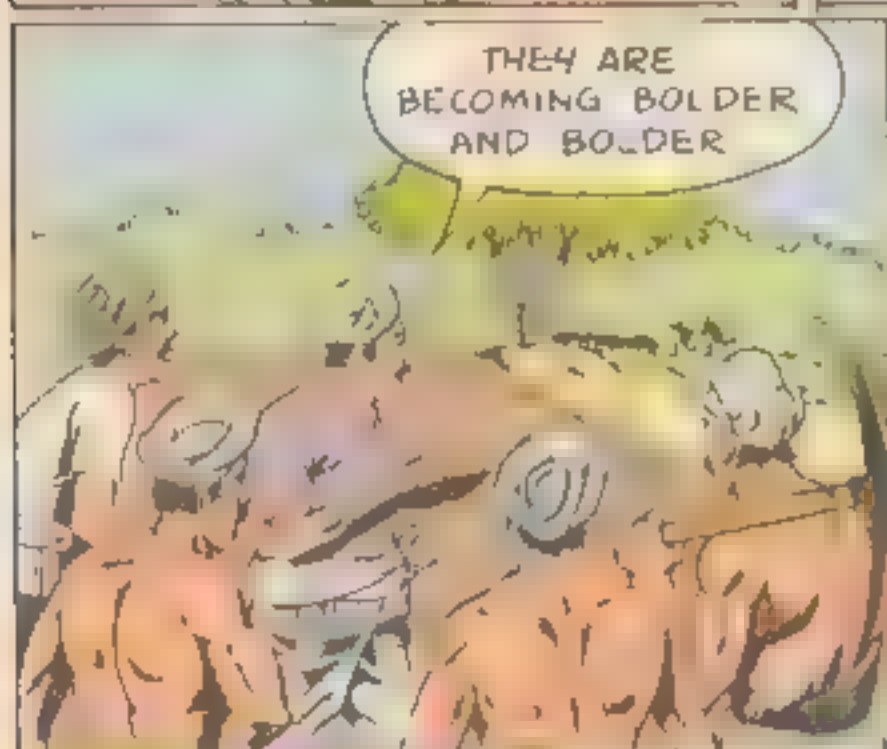


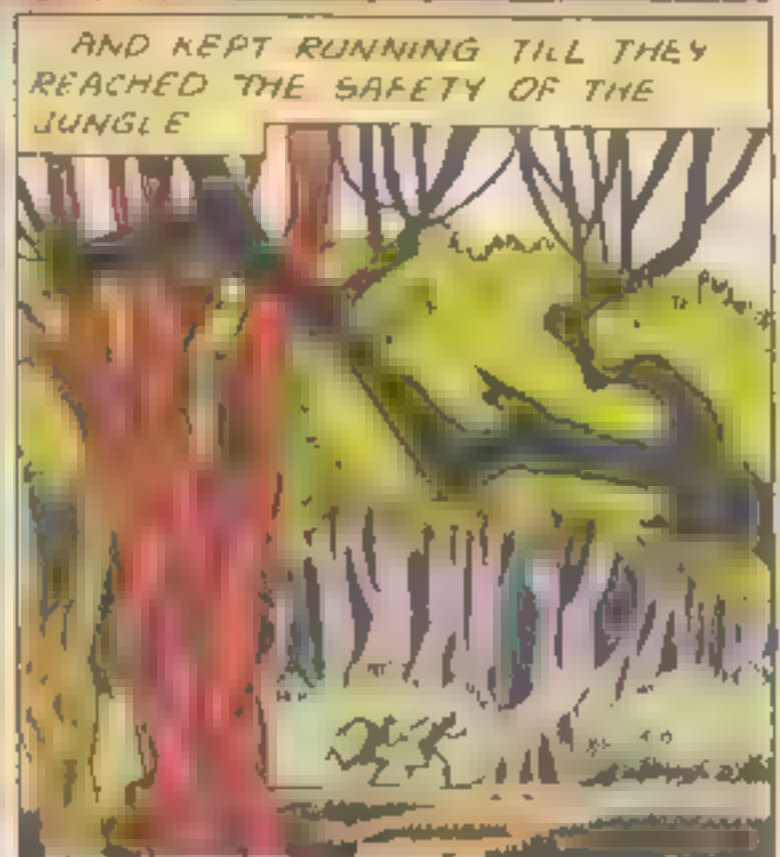
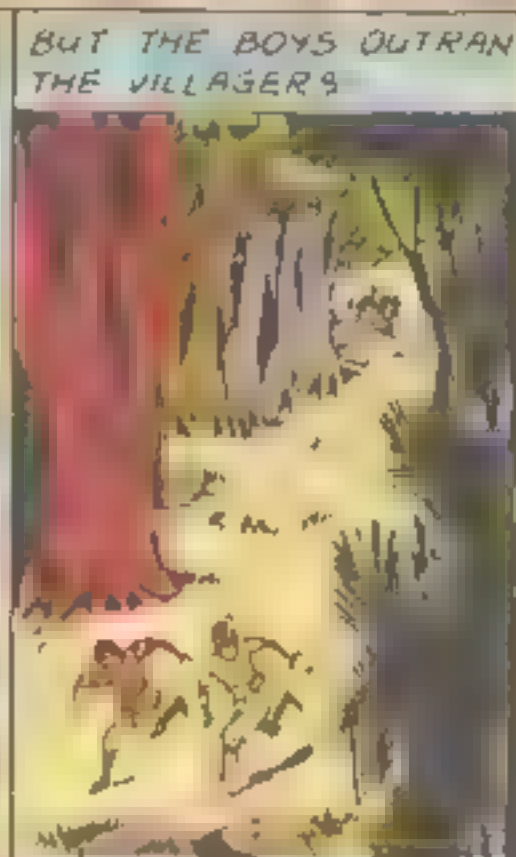
THACK

EEEEEEK!

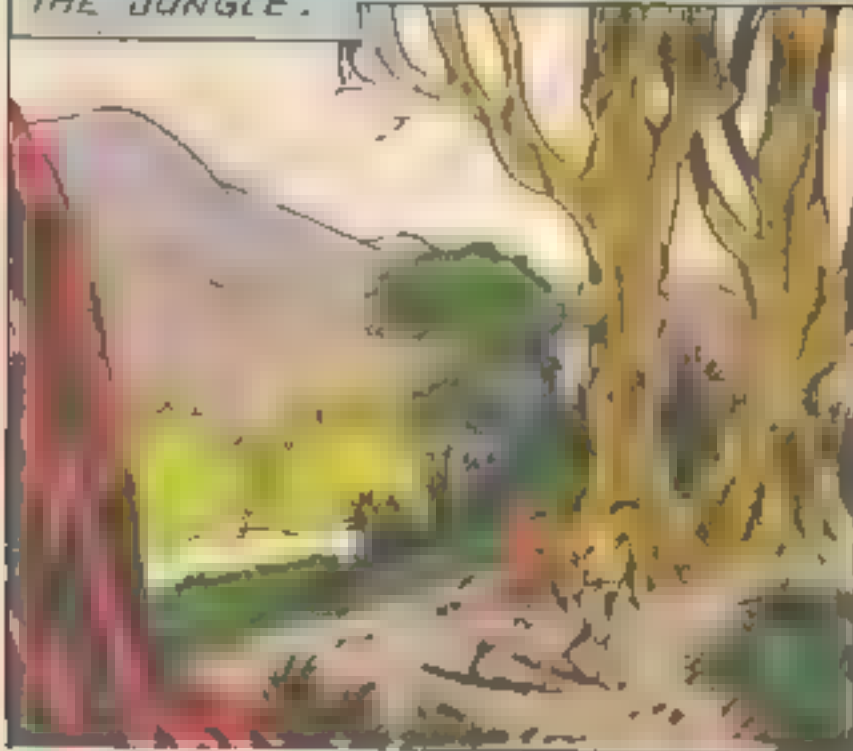








SO THE BOYS WENT DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE.



THEY WALKED ON AND ON, THEN STOPPED DEAD..



FOR SEATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE R PATH WAS AN ENORMOUS TIGER



THE YOUNGER BOY SUDDENLY DARTED FORWARD



THREW HIMSELF ON THE TIGER'S BACK



AND CATCHING HOLD OF THE ANIMAL'S EARS PUSHED HIS HEAD DOWN. AT THE SAME TIME THE OLDER BOY GRABBED HIS TAIL.



THE TIGER WAS STARTLED OUT OF HIS WITS.



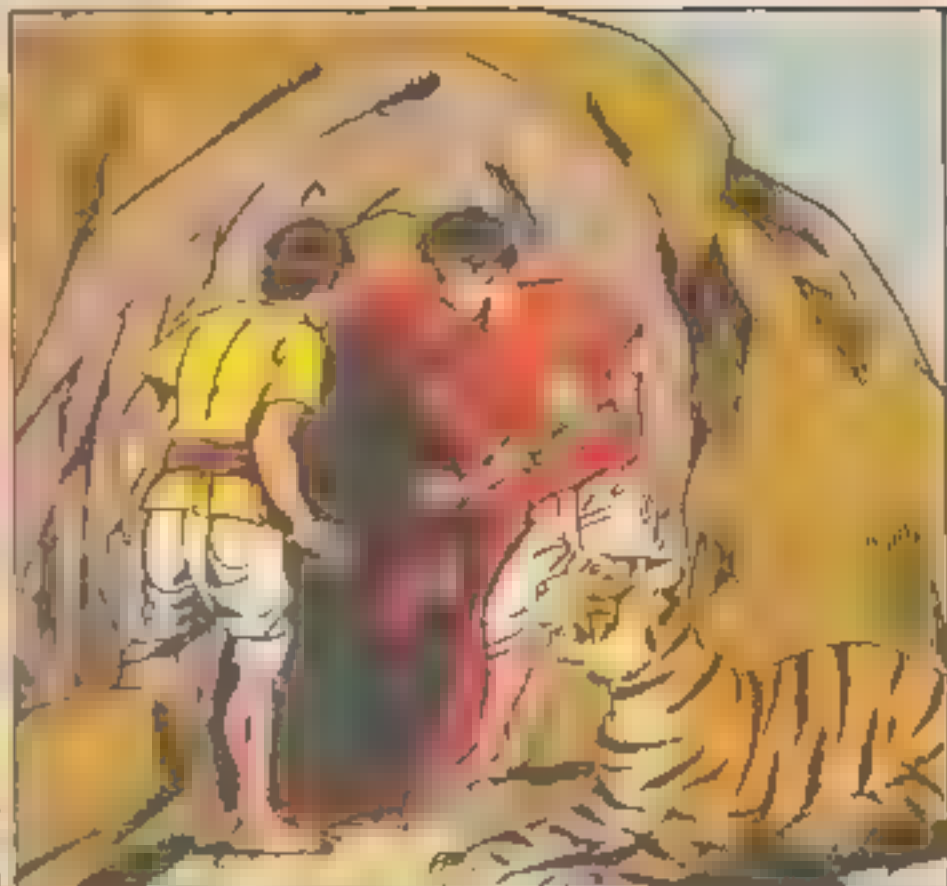




THE TIGER, TREMBLING WITH FEAR, LED THE BOYS TO HIS CAVE



THIS IS WHERE
LIVE. NOW
PLEASE LET ME



IF THEY THINK I AM
GOING TO WAIT FOR
THEM, THEY ARE
MISTAKEN.

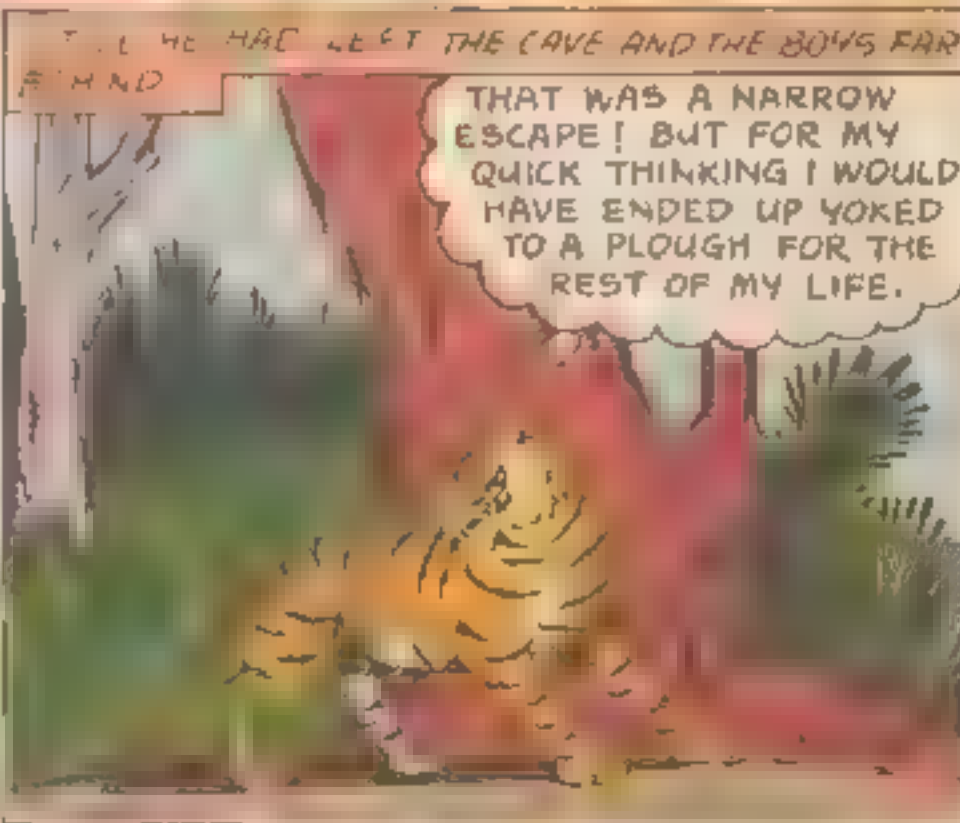


THE TIGER RAN AND RAN



UNTIL HE HAD LEFT THE CAVE AND THE BOYS FAR
BEHIND

THAT WAS A NARROW
ESCAPE! BUT FOR MY
QUICK THINKING I WOULD
HAVE ENDED UP YOKED
TO A PLOUGH FOR THE
REST OF MY LIFE.



NOW TO FEED
THE TWELVE
TIGERS



HE STALKED...



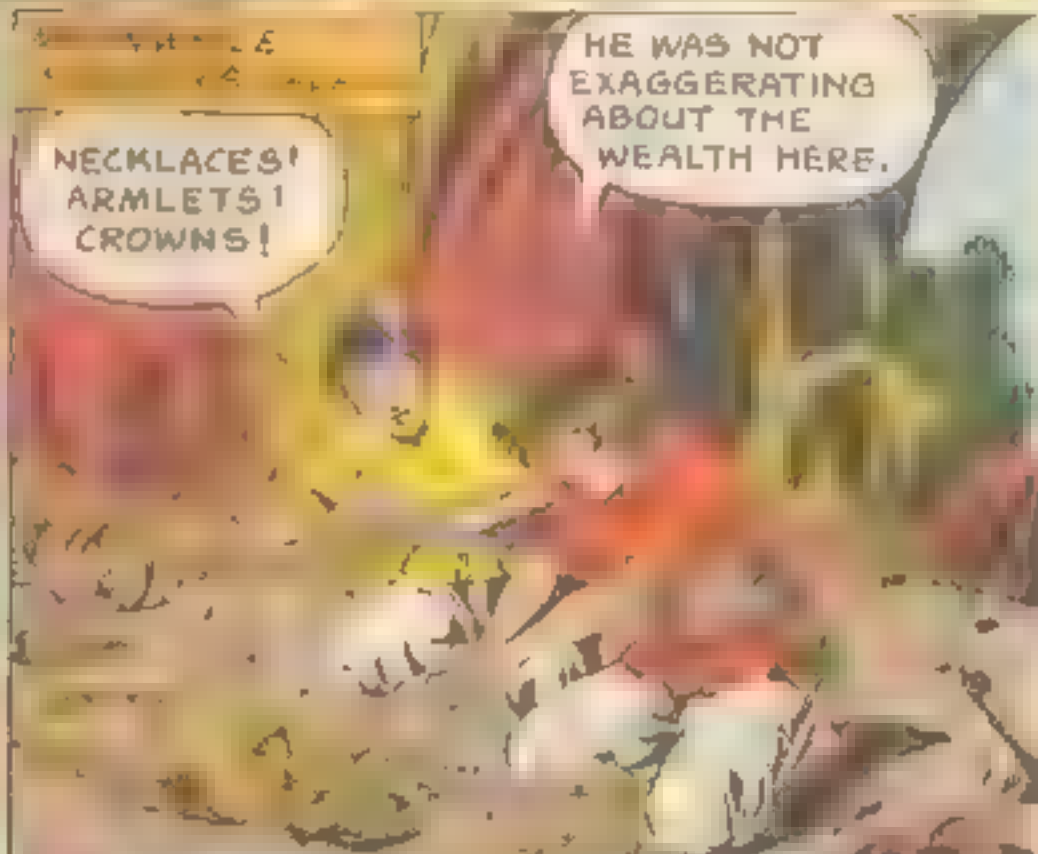
...AND KILLED A SAMBHAR

...AND WENT TO INVITE HIS FRIENDS
TO EAT WITH HIM.



NECKLACES!
ARMLETS!
CROWNS!

HE WAS NOT
EXAGGERATING
ABOUT THE
WEALTH HERE.



THE TWO BOYS GATHERED TOGETHER ALL
THE ORNAMENTS LYING IN AND AROUND
THE CAVE



AND NOT FINDING THE TIGER OUTSIDE



...WENT ON THEIR WAY.



AS THEY WALKED ON—



ARE WE GOING
TOWARDS THE
VILLAGE OR AWAY
FROM IT?

I DON'T
KNOW

I THINK WE ARE
LOST. TRY TO REMEMBER
WHICH WAY WE CAME..
WHAT ARE YOU
STARING AT?

TIGERS!



TEN—
TWELVE—
THIRTEEN
OF THEM.



WE'RE
DONE FOR
IF THEY
SEE US!



LET'S
CLIMB UP
THAT TREE.



FASTER!

ONE OF THE BOYS
MANAGED TO SCRAMBLE
ONTO A BRANCH...

BUT THE OTHER WAS A LITTLE SLOW
AND HE WAS STILL HALF-WAY UP THE
TRUNK WHEN THE TIGERS CAME
INTO VIEW.

I'D BETTER
STAY WHERE I AM.
IF I MOVE, IT'LL
ATTRACT THEIR
ATTENTION.

HERE IS THE
SAMBHAR, MY
FRIENDS.

WE'LL DRAG
IT TO THAT
TREE AND EAT
IT THERE.



THE TIGERS MADE THEMSELVES COMFORTABLE UNDER THE TREE. THEN THE OLDEST AMONG THEM TURNED TO THE HOST

NOW BEFORE WE START, PLEASE TELL US WHY YOU ARE FEASTING US

ER WELL

LET'S SAY, IT'S TO CELEBRATE MY NARROW ESCAPE.

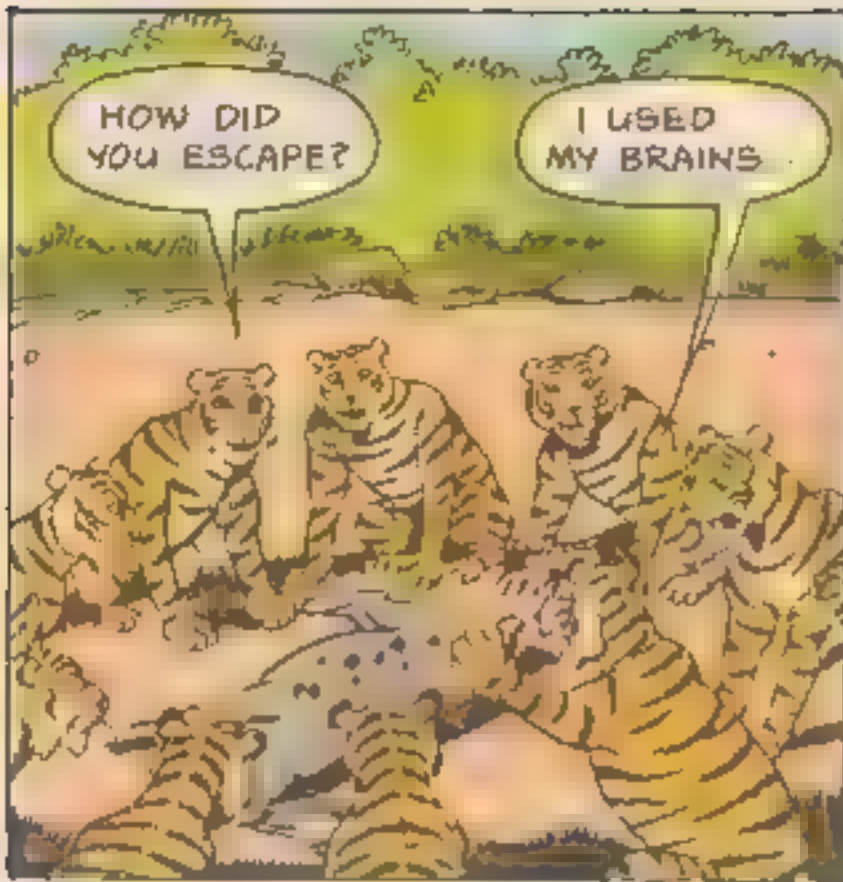
NARROW ESCAPE ?

YES THIS AFTER-NOON I WAS SEIZED BY TWO MONSTERS SUCH FIENDISH CREATURES YOU COULD NEVER HAVE SEEN BEFORE !

THEY NEEDED TWO TIGERS TO PULL THEIR PLOUGH AND THEY HAD ALREADY CAUGHT ONE. THEY WERE ALL SET TO TAKE ME AWAY TOO.

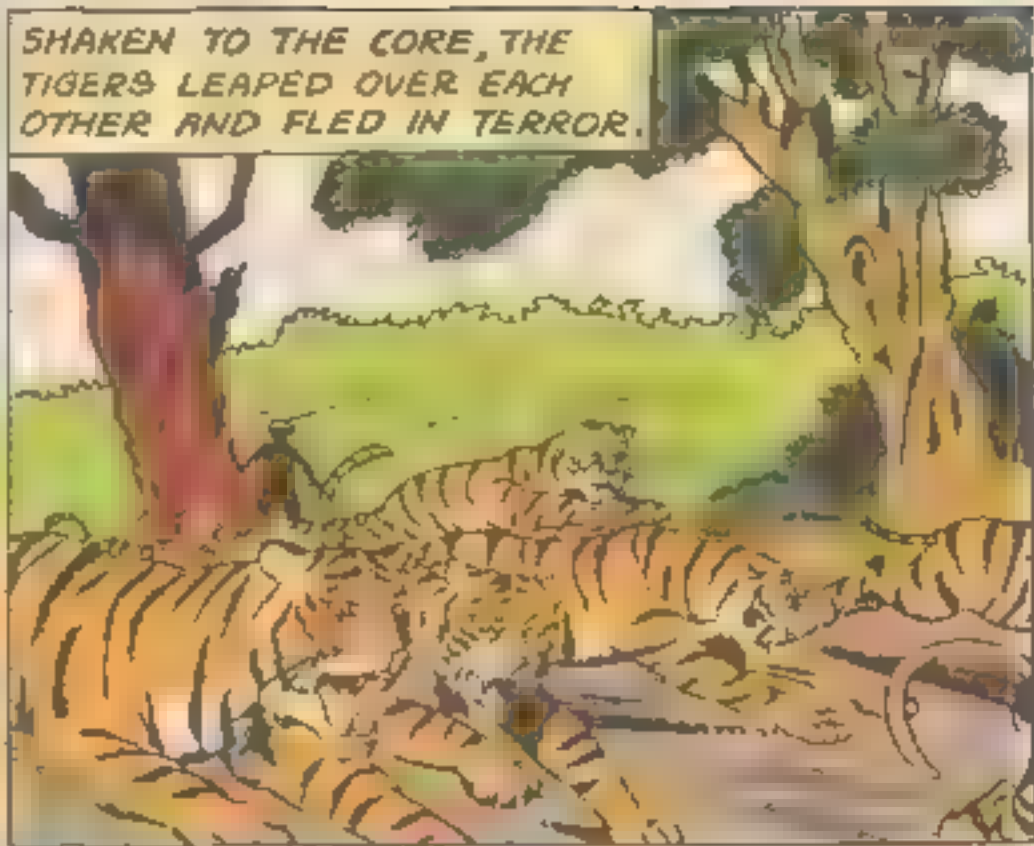
YOU DON'T SAY !







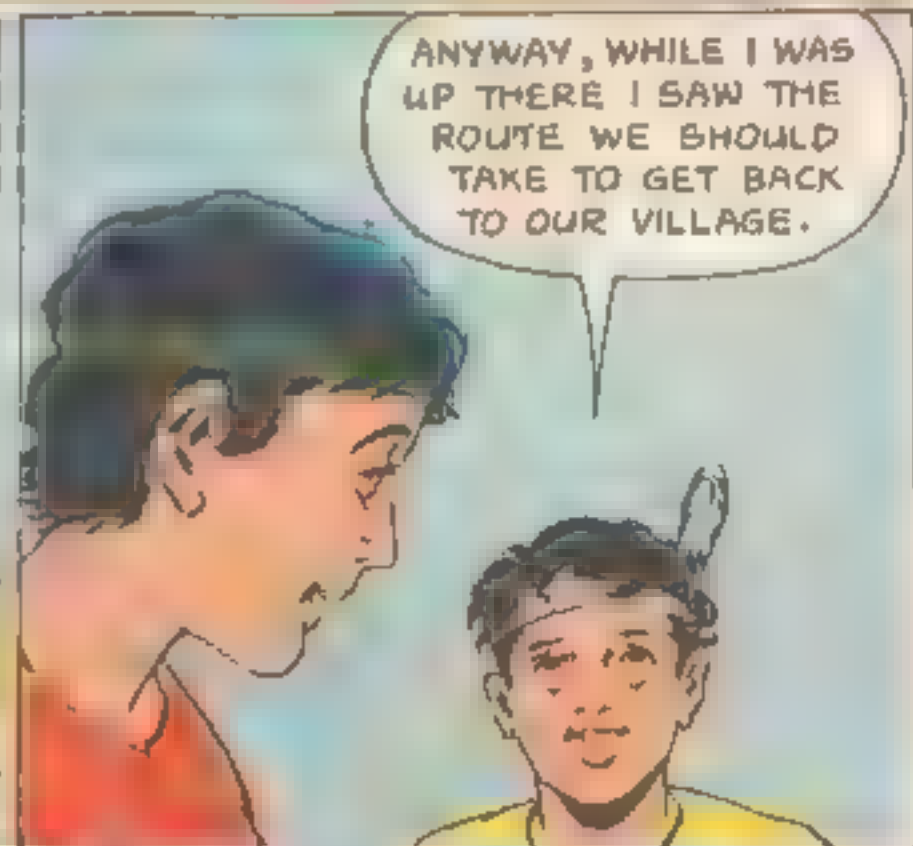
RUN! RUN
FOR YOUR
LIVES!



SHAKEN TO THE CORE, THE
TIGERS LEAPED OVER EACH
OTHER AND FLED IN TERROR.



GOOD THINKING,
BROTHER. I THOUGHT
IT WAS THE END
FOR ME.



ANYWAY, WHILE I WAS
UP THERE I SAW THE
ROUTE WE SHOULD
TAKE TO GET BACK
TO OUR VILLAGE.



SO LET'S GO
BACK HOME. THOSE
PEOPLE ARE SURE TO
FORGIVE US WHEN
THEY HEAR ABOUT
OUR ADVENTURE
AND SEE WHAT WE
HAVE IN OUR
BUNDLE.

It's magic!



Wonder Bridge:

Challenge someone to make a piece of paper support a glass atop two spaced glasses.

Secret:

Fold the paper concertina-wise. It's strong enough to carry the glass!



Disappearing Pencil:

Place a pencil under a handkerchief. Toss the handkerchief aside and the pencil is gone!

Secret:

As soon as you've placed the pencil under the handkerchief, extend your

fore-finger to make it appear to be the pencil holding up the handkerchief.

At the same time, drop the pencil down your sleeve. When the handkerchief is removed, the pencil is gone! Remember, magic means practice and practice builds your confidence in the art of magic.



4 Coins to 5:

Set up four coins on a table in front of you. Count them off so that there can be no mistake about the fact that there are only four coins on the table.

Now slide these coins off the table and — voilà — you have five!

Secret:

Under the table there is a fifth coin which you have attached with a piece of soap. While you are gathering the four coins from the table top, simply reach under the table with your fingers, palming the fifth coin. A neat trick.

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Saving can be fun!



State Bank

Security is a warm feeling



FRIENDS!
A COLLECTION OF
MY ADVENTURES IS
NOW AVAILABLE IN
A SPECIAL BUMPER
ISSUE!

I AM IN IT TOO!

THOSE TWO! ALWAYS
HOGGING THE
LIMELIGHT! WHO DO
THEY THINK THEY
ARE!

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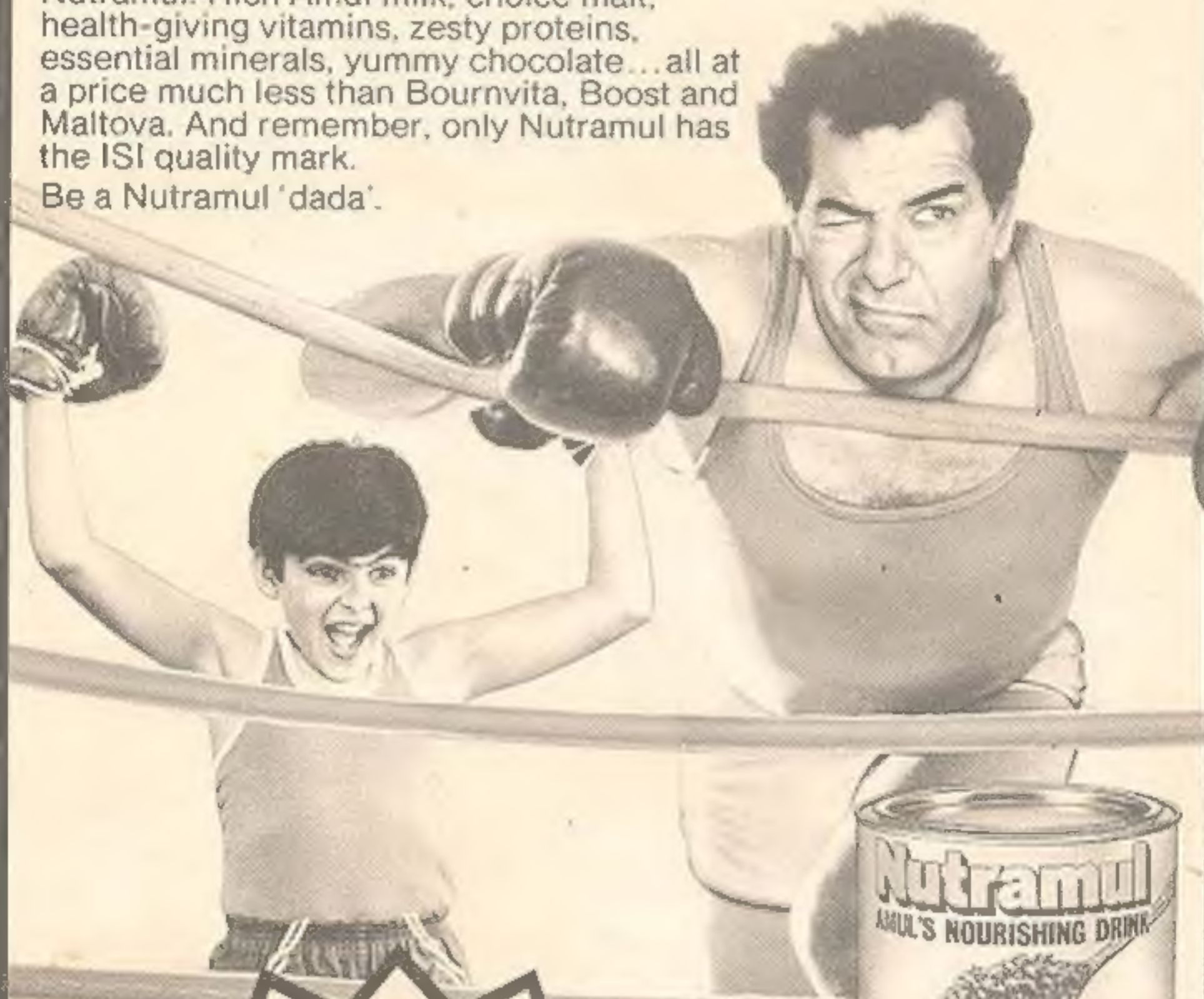
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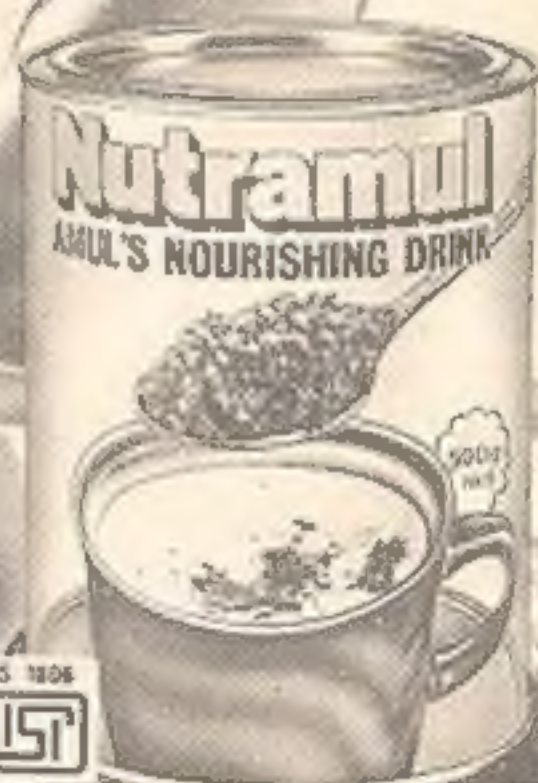
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(IN BLOCK LETTERS)

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Anand 388 001

Hooray! Hooray! It's a Goldspotting day!



NO PARTYING
COULD EVER DO ME JUSTICE
BUT KEEP TRYING



MISS R. 833



I SEE THAT
YOUR MOUTH
CAN ALSO BE
SO ART!

THERE'S
A BIG BEAR HIDE
FOR THE HUNTER!

WE'RE GOING
GOLDSPOTTING

HAPPY!

WE'RE ALL
GOLDSPOTTERS

Fun means Goldspotting

**GOLD
SPOT**